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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
16 APRIL 1953

SITUATION IN INDOCHINA

Viet Minh elements equivalent to about one division have occupied the Sam Neua area of northern Laos following a French withdrawal southward toward Xieng Khouang. There has still been virtually no contact between the opposing forces.

Two enemy divisions are still north of the Laotian border and could join the advance into Laos; they could also either turn toward the French stronghold of Na San in western Tonkin or redeploy for an attack on the Delta. With the rainy season beginning in late May, however, little time remains for large-scale operations. (Map attached)

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